

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 121700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5759

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO

SUBJECT: PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

HOLD MEETINGS

REF: CAIRO 7908

1. SUMMARY: MEETINGS JUST CONCLUDED OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FATAH'S REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HERE. THE PLO WILL CONVENE ITS CENTRAL COUNCIL IN DAMASCUS AUGUST 15 AND WILL SEND DELEGATIONS TO VARIOUS CAPITALS IN A QUICKENING DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. FATAH REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO INCREASE COMMANDO OPERATIONS AGAINST
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ISRAEL AND TO SUPPORT INTERNAL LEBANESE STABILITY. BOTH THE

PLO AND FATAH DISCUSSED KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT STATEMENT AGAINST THE FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN JORDAN. MEANWHILE, THE "REJECTION FRONT" HELD A COMPETING MEETING IN BEIRUT AUGUST 10. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD A NINE-HOUR MEETING IN BEIRUT AUGUST 10 UNDER 'ARAFAT'S CHAIRMANSHIP. 'ARAFAT HAD MET EARLIER FOR THREE DAYS WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY CONCIL OF FATAH. THE TWO MEETINGS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN BEIRUT IN VIEW OF INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELI-US-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMING TO A HEAD FOR A SINAI AGREEMENT.

3. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF ITS MEETING THAT THE SEVENTEEN-MEMBER PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL WILL MEET AUGUST 15 IN DAMASCUS TO PREPARE AN ASSEMBLY OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL. (COMMENT: OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MAY BE EXPANDED, PRINCIPALLY TO INCLUDE MORE REPS OF THE "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES." HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE EFFECT OF SUCH A STEP ON THE MODERATE-RADICAL BALANCE WITHIN THE PLO CAN NO LONGER EASILY BE GAUGED, THERE IS NO CERTAINTY AS TO WHEN, OR EVEN WHETHER, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL MEET. A MEETING DUE TO BE HELD LAST JUNE WAS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. IF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL DOES MEET, THE MOST LIKELY TIMING IS LATE THIS YEAR, AFTER THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.)

4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED TO FORM SEVERAL DELEGATIONS AS PART OF A QUICKENING DIPLOMATIC EFFORT OVER THE COMING WEEKS. A LARGE PLO DELEGATION LED BY PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD ("FOREIGN MINISTER") FARUQ AL-QADDUMI WILL ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN LIMA. WE UNDERSTAND THIS DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE ABDEL JAWAD SALEH (HEAD OF THE "OCCUPIED NATION" DEPARTMENT), SAID KAMAL (QADDUMI'S NO. TWO), NABIL RAMLAWI, ISSAM KAMEL, AND ZUHDI TARAZI. A SEPARATE DELEGATION PLANS TO GO VERY SOON TO IRAQ CONSISTING OF THE SAME ABDEL JAWAD SALEH AND MOHAMMED ZUHDI NASHASHIBI, SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY SALEH AND NASHASHIBI WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN IRAQI SUPPORT FOR THE FEDAYEEN AND SOUND OUT IRAQI INTENTIONS FOLLOWING HABASH'S RECENT LESS-THEN-SUCCESSFUL VISIT THERE, A DEVELOPMENT CERTAINLY CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT UNWELCOME TO THE PLO "MODERATES." THE DELEGATION MAY ALSO TRY TO BRIDGE THE SYRIAN-IRAQI RIFT IN THE FACE OF INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND CONTRADICTORY RALTIONS INVOLVING THE FEDAYEEN WITH SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON, AND IRAQ.)

5. A THIRD DELEGATION CONSISTING OF FARUQ AL-QADDUMI AND ABDEL MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR WILL TRAVEL TO YUGOSLAVIA, BULGARIA, TURKEY, AND CYPRUS TO DRUP UP DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT

AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UPCOMING UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE VISIT TO TURKEY MAY ALSO ENCOMPASS THE AIM, MENTIONED REF-TEL, OF OPENING A PLO OFFICE IN ANKARA.

6. DECISIONS OF THE FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WERE NOT ANNOUNCED, BUT ONE DECISION WIDELY REPORTED WAS TO INCREASE COMMANDO OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. THE FATAH LEADERS ALSO ALLEGEDLY CALLED FOR DISCIPLINE AMONG FEDAYEEN GROUPS SO AS NOT TO ENDANGER LEBANESE STABILITY. (COMMENT: THE CONTRADICTION INHERENT IN THESE TWO DECISIONS IS GENERALLY IGNORED; INCREASED ACTIVITY AGAINST ISRAEL CERTAINLY WOULD LEAD TO REPRISALS AND POTENTIALLY HEIGHTEN TENSIONS INSIDE LEBANON. BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT FATAH SAYS IT WILL TRY TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH LEBANESE GROUPS.)

7. BOTH THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE FATAH MEETING DISCUSSED KING HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS THAT HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW THE FEDAYEEN BACK INTO JORDAN. FATAH REPORTEDLY CAME OUT AGAINST ANY DIALOGUE WITH HUSSEIN UNLESS HE PERMITS THE "RESISTANCE" BACK INTO JORDAN. THE PLO ORGAN "FALASTIN AL THAURA" ROUNDLY CONDEMNED HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT AND PLEDGED THE PALESTINIANS TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE HASHEMITE REGIME.

8. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PALESTINAIN "REJECTION FRONT" GROUPS HELD A RALLY IN BEIRUT AUGUST 10 AT WHICH THE PLO WAS CRITICIZED FOR "ALIGNING ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE ARAB REGIMES THAT SEEK A SETTLEMENT." THE "REJECTIONISTS" ALSO DECLARED THAT THEY PLANNED TO HOLD "A PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH WILL EXPRESS THE REAL OPINION OF THE PALESTINE MASSES." (COMMENT: IF THIS ACTION MATERIALIZES, IT WILL PUT FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE PLO TO ASSEMBLE THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL. A RIVAL PARLIAMENT WOULD

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ALSO HIGHLIGHT THE PUBLIC DETERIORATION IN PLO-REJECTIONIST RELATIONS AND BE A MAJOR SYMBOLIC BREAK BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.)

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